

**REMARKS**

All claims have been cancelled and new claims 32-35 have been added. Accordingly, claims 32-35 remain under prosecution in this application.

35 USC §112, first paragraph

The specification is objected to under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph as failing to provide an adequate written description of the invention. Specifically, the Examiner contends that the applicant has failed to incorporate a foreign test standard (i.e. Japanese Industrial Standard – JIS) in the specification.

Submitted herewith is Appendix A comprising an English translation of the relevant portion of the JIS standard.

Submitted herewith is an amendment to paragraph [0023] incorporating by reference, the relevant portion of the JIS standard of Appendix A. Also submitted herewith is a Statement Under MPEP § 608.01(p).

In view of the amendment to the specification and submission of Appendix A, the undersigned believes that the objection under 35 USC § 112, first paragraph is overcome.

35 USC § 102

Claims 16 and 19 are rejected under 35 USC § 102 as being anticipated by Landa et al (U.S. Patent No. 5,047,808).

All claims have been canceled and new claims 32-35 have been added. Claim 32, recites, in part, “. . . wherein the release layer is formed of a fluoro resin or an elastomer. . .” Furthermore, claim 32, requires, in part that the release layer has “. . . a surface tension of 20 mN/m or less and a thickness of 0.01mm or more.” Although Landa et al and the other references of record may disclose the release layer as an intermediate transfer member 40, a surface printing layer 15, and image transfer portion 104 and an outer layer and a lithographic layer 1, none of the

references of record, teach or suggest the values of the surface tension and the thickness as claimed in claim 32. For these reasons alone, the undersigned believes that claim 32 is now in condition for allowance.

Moreover, claim 32 also includes a withstand voltage layer having a thickness of 0.2 mm or more, a volume electrical resistivity within a range of  $10^5\Omega\text{-cm}$  through  $10^9\Omega\text{-cm}$  at room temperature, and a matrix hardness of 80 JIS-A or less. None of the references disclose the withstand voltage layer as claimed. The withstand voltage layer electrically insulates the voltage and prevents it from flowing from the conductive support layer 13 to the release layer 11. The unique result of the present invention is obtained by the thickness and the volume electrical resistivity of the withstand voltage layer as claimed in claim 32. Furthermore, although Aronhime et al and Buono et al disclose conductive layers, they have nothing to do with a withstand voltage layer.

In addition, the image transfer sheet of claim 32 has a modulus in stress of 1.0MPa or less when the image transfer sheet is distorted 0.1mm, and a modulus in stress of 2.0MPa or more when the image transfer sheet is distorted 0.3mm. Although Beltzung et al discloses a Young's modulus, it does not disclose a modulus in stress. Other references of record simply disclose compressive layers. However, none of the references of record disclose a modulus in stress.

In view of the submission of new claim 32 and the above-referenced arguments, the undersigned believes that claim 32 and its dependent claims (33 and 35) are now in condition for allowance.

Application No. 10/551,547  
Amendment dated 01/28/2010  
Reply to Office Action of October 28, 2009

Docket No.: 217275-100907

Applicant believes no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 50-3145, under Order No. 217275-100907 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: 28 January 2010

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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